

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05359 091128Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 SSO-00 /015 W

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O 091045Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9825

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (KNOWLTON, TERESA ANN)

SUBJECT: W/W TERESA ANN KNOWLTON

REF: STATE 056306

1. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO DEPT'S QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

A) UNABLE OBTAIN DEFINITIVE RESPONSE BUT EMBASSY BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY RTG AUTHORITIES WILL ACCEPT COST OF EXHUMATION AND AUTOPSY. POLICE HOSPITAL IN BANGKOK WHICH PERFORMS ALL AUTOPSIES STATE IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PERFORM AUTOPSY NOW SINCE BODY WAS EMBALMED. NO RESTRICTION ON EXHUMATION, HOWEVER, ASSUMING POSSIBILITY REMAINS MAY BE ONE AND SAME AS SUBJECT.

B) POLICE OFFICER WHO MADE POST MORTEM EXAMINATION STATES EYES MAY BE BROWN SINCE HE PERFORMED ONLY CURSORY EXAMINATION OF COLORING AND MAY HAVE AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMED EYES WERE BLUE AS BELIEVED TO BE CASE WITH MOST CAUCASIANS.

C) REMAINS EMBALMED AND BURIED OCTOBER 26, 1975 AFTER EIGHT DAYS ELAPSED AND NO ONE CAME FORWARD TO IDENTIFY REMAINS. FACILITIES FOR RETENTION OF REMAINS ARE LIMITED IN THAILAND AND SINCE IT WAS DETERMINED AUTOPSY WAS UNNECESSARY AND THUS REMAINS NEED NOT BE TRANSPORTED TO POLICE HOSPITAL BANGKOK, BURIAL WAS DECIDED UPON. EMBASSY ALONG WITH OTHER EMBASSIES LEARNED OF UNIDENTIFIED BODY ONLY THROUGH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED NOVEMBER 4 AND WHICH IDENTIFIED BODY ONLY AS FEMALE AND PROBABLY FOREIGN. BATHING SUIT BORE NO MARKINGS TO ASSIST IN DETERMINATION OF PLACE OF PURCHASE AT LEASE.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05359 091128Z

D) MANY YOUNG TOURISTS VISIT PATTAYA BEACH AREA AND NOT UN-
LIKELY SOME AT LEAST SWIM AT NIGHTTIME. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY
BODY WAS DISCOVERED OCTOBER 18 BY TWO THAI FISHERMEN. NO CLOTHING
OR OTHER BELONGINGS FOUND IN VICINITY. NO WITNESSES, TRAVELLING
COMPANIONS, ETC. CAME FORTH TO IDENTIFY REMAINS OR QUESTION
WHEREABOUTS OF FRIEND OR RELATIVE MISSING AT SAME TIME AND IN
SAME AREA. POLICE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY AND DETERMINED
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DROWNING.

2. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, THREE OTHER UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS
DISCOVERED IN MONTH OF DECEMBER AND APPEARING TO BE CAUCASIAN
PRESENTLY BEING RETAINED AT POLICE HOSPITAL. TWO PRESUMED TO BE
AUSTRALIANS FROM CLOTHING MARKINGS AND OTHER FACTORS BUT STILL
UNIDENTIFIED BY AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. OTHER IS OF UNKNOWN
NATIONALITY. NONE COME CLOSE TO MATCHING DESCRIPTION OF
SUBJECT NOR OF ANY OTHER AMCIT MISSING IN THAILAND. AT TIME
THESE REMAINS FOUND IN OCTOBER AND LEARNED OF IN NOVEMBER,
EMBASSY CHECKED ALL RECORDS OF THEN MISSING AMCITS BUT FOUND
NONE TO MATCH DESCRIPTION.

WILL KEEP DEPT INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AFTER ADDI-
TIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION POLICE OFFICER CONCERNED WITH
CASE.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO05359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760088-0946
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760382/aaaactxw.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 56306
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W TERESA ANN KNOWLTON
TAGS: CASC, (KNOWLTON, TERESA ANN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006